



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,136 03/24/2004 Dan Scott Johnson 200207099-1 5259

22879 7590 12/03/2009
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
3404 E. Harmony Road
Mail Stop 35
FORT COLLINS, CO 80528

EXAMINER

ZHONG, JUN FEI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2426

NOTIFICATION DATE DELIVERY MODE

12/03/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
ipa.mail@hp.com
laura.m.clark@hp.com

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/808,136	Applicant(s) JOHNSON, DAN SCOTT	
	Examiner JUN FEI ZHONG	Art Unit 2426

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6,9-12,14-17,19,21-29 and 34-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6,9-12,14-17,19,21-29 and 34-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
- 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered 7/16/2009.
2. The Non-Final Office Action of 4/16/2009 is fully incorporated into this Final Office Action by reference.

Status of Claims

3. Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29 and 34-39 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12, 15-17, 21-25, 29, 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Farrand (Pub # US 20030193619).

As to claim 1, Farrand discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system (Fig. 2a), comprising:

a sink component (e.g., distributed multimedia node 192; Fig. 2a) adapted to be communicatively coupled between a source component (e.g., home media

Art Unit: 2426

server 110) and a presentation device (e.g., television 171) for displaying A/V program data and an A/V menu data stream associated with the source component on the presentation device based on a user request transmitted from the sink component to the source component (e.g., displaying EPG; Fig. 15a and 15b) (see paragraph 0062, 0064, 0147-0148), the sink component adapted to one of a plurality of communication networks (e.g., wire or wireless network interface) for obtaining the A/V program data and the A/V menu data stream from the source component (see paragraph 0059, 0061).

a data manager (e.g., ASIC) adapted to identify related A/V program data and automatically transfer the A/V program data and the related A/V program data between a memory (e.g., memory 201) and an archival storage system (e.g., mass storage 230) based on a sequential relationship of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data (i.e., ASIC is a bridge device between memory 201 and mass storage 230, and output buffers 890-893 buffering output contents based on time; Fig. 2b, 8C), wherein an earlier of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the memory (e.g., buffering (storing) broadcasting channel stream in output buffer), and a later of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the archival storage system (e.g., storing broadcasting channel stream in mass storage) (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

Art Unit: 2426

As to claim 12, Farrand discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system (Fig. 2a), comprising:

means for transmitting (e.g., communication modules 240-245 communicating other devices over network 190; Fig. 2b), via a sink component (e.g., distributed multimedia node 192; Fig. 2a) communicatively coupled between a source component (e.g., home media server 110) and a presentation device (e.g., television 171), A/V program data and an A/V menu data stream from the source component to the presentation device based on a user request transmitted from the sink component to the source component (e.g., user selects a channel on EPG; Fig. 15a and 15b) (see paragraph 0064, 0147-0148; Fig. 2b);

means (e.g., ASIC) for identifying related A/V program data and automatically transferring the A/V program data and the related A/V program between a memory (e.g., memory 201) and an archival storage system (e.g., mass storage 230) based on a sequential relationship of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data (i.e., ASIC is a bridge device between memory 201 and mass storage 230, and output buffers 890-893 buffering output contents based on time; Fig. 2b, 8C), wherein an earlier of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the memory (e.g., buffering (storing) broadcasting channel stream in output buffer), and a later of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the archival storage system (e.g., storing broadcasting channel stream in mass storage) (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

As to claim 17, this claim differs from claim 12 only in that claim 17 is method whereas claim 12 is apparatus. Thus, claim 17 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 12 above.

As to claim 29, Farrand discloses an audio/video (AV) component networking system, comprising:

a sink component (e.g., distributed multimedia node 192; Fig. 2a) configured to be communicatively coupled between a source component (e.g., home media server 110) and a presentation device (e.g., television 171) for displaying A/V program data associated with the source component on the presentation device based on a user request transmitted from the sink component to the source component (e.g., user selects a channel on EPG; Fig. 15a and 15b) (see paragraph 0064, 0147-0148; Fig. 2b),

a data manager (e.g., ASIC) adapted to automatically transfer the available A/V program data between a memory (e.g., memory 201) and an archival storage system (e.g., mass storage 230) based on a sequential relationship of the available A/V program data (i.e., ASIC is a bridge device between memory 201 and mass storage 230, and output buffers 890-893 buffering output contents based on time; Fig. 2b, 8C), wherein earlier A/V program data is stored in the memory and later A/V program data is stored in the archival storage system (e.g., buffering (storing) broadcasting channel stream in output buffer and storing broadcasting channel stream in mass storage) (i.e.,

Art Unit: 2426

television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

As to claim 3, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component comprises a registration module (e.g., network interface 605) adapted to register a type of communication network for communicating with the source component (e.g., home media server 110) (i.e., network interface 605 communicates with home media server 110 through network 190, a initiation must make, such as “handshake” (register a network for communication) to notify the home media server 110 in order to establish the connection) (see paragraph 0061).

As to claim 4, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component comprises a registration module (e.g., network interface 605) adapted to register the source component with the sink component (e.g., distributed multimedia node 192) (i.e., network interface 605 communicates with home media server 110 through network 190, a initiation must make, such as “handshake” (register a network for communication) to notify both end in order to establish the connection) (see paragraph 0061).

As to claim 5, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user a listing of the A/V program data available from the source component (see paragraph 0064).

As to claim 6, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component comprises a registration module adapted to register the presentation device with the sink component (i.e., ASIC 620 outputting video and audio signals to different devices, there is an identification (registration) for each device in order for the network to notify it) (see paragraph 0061, 0082).

As to claim 9, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to present to the user on the presentation device a listing of the A/V program data available from the source component (see paragraph 0064).

As to claim 10, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to decode the A/V program data for presentation on the presentation device (e.g., MPEG-2 decoder 630 decodes data from home media server 110) (see paragraph 0061).

As to claim 11, Farrand discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the sink component is adapted to display to the user via the presentation device a menu interface associated with the source component (e.g., the data from TV broadcasting or mass storage device) (see paragraph 0064).

Art Unit: 2426

As to claims 15 and 21, they contain the limitations of claim 3 and are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

As to claim 16, it contains the limitations of claim 4 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 4 above.

As to claim 22, it contains the limitations of claim 5 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 5 above.

As to claim 23, it contains the limitations of claim 9 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 9 above.

As to claim 24, it contains the limitations of claim 10 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 10 above.

As to claim 25, it contains the limitations of claim 11 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 11 above.

As to claim 34, Farrand discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein the sequential relationship of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is based on a recordation time or receipt time of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as,

Art Unit: 2426

8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

As to claim 35, Farrand discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein the sequential relationship of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is based on a presentation time of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data to a user (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

As to claim 36, Farrand discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein, upon presentation of the A/V program data to a user, the data manager is adapted to extract next sequential A/V program data from the archival storage system and store the next sequential A/V program data in the memory (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

As to claims 37-39, they contain the limitations of claims 34-36 and are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 34-36 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 14, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrand (Pub # US 20030193619) in view of Margulis (Patent # US 6263503), and further in view of Liebenow (Patent # US 6131136).

As to claim 2, Farrand discloses sink component (e.g., distributed multimedia node 192; Fig. 2a).

Farrand fails to disclose select the available types of communication networks based on a type of the source component.

Margulis discloses select the available types of communication networks based on a type of the source component (e.g., using coax for television, using USB 632 to communicate with a personal computer, using control bus 634 to communicate HAVI compatible devices, using WAN 658 to access digital A/V data from internet; base station transmits these data to a remote display) (see col. 9, line 35-col. 10, line 57; Fig. 1, 5, 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select the network based on source as taught by Margulis to the home network system of Farrand in order to effectively and efficiently

Art Unit: 2426

implements a flexible wireless television system that utilizes various heterogeneous components to facilitate optimal system interoperability and functionality (see col. 3, lines 11-16).

Farrand and Margulis fail to specifically disclose automatically select a communication network.

Liebenow discloses automatically selecting a communication networks (e.g., wire or wireless network) (see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the automatically network switch as taught by Liebenow to the home network system of Farrand as modified by Margulis because both of the functions are performed without intervention by the user, and more easy to use (see col.2, lines 5-8).

As to claim 14, Farrand discloses the system of claim 12, further comprising means for automatically selecting (e.g., ASIC 620) at least one of a plurality of different types of communication networks for communicating between the sink component and the source component (e.g., selects RF or Ethernet as the network interface) (see paragraph 0057, 0059-0062, 0121, 0122)

Liebenow discloses based on a type of the source component or a type of the A/V program data (e.g., wire or wireless network) (see abstract).

As to claim 19, it contains the limitations of claim 2 and is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 2 above.

8. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis et al (Pub # US 2004/0187152) in view of Farrand (Pub # US 20030193619).

As to claim 26, Francis discloses an audio/video (A/V) component networking system (e.g., system 1200; Fig. 12), comprising:

a sink component (e.g., PVR 120; Fig. 6) configured to be communicatively coupled between a plurality of source components (e.g., PVR 115 and devices from other zone) and a presentation device (e.g., TV 110) for displaying an aggregated listing of available A/V program data associated with the plurality of source components on the presentation device such that the location of the A/V program data remains transparent to the user (e.g., display video content list from other devices) (see paragraph 0064-0065, 0073, 0092-0099).

Francis does not specifically disclose a data manager.

Farrand discloses a data manager (e.g., ASIC) adapted to automatically transfer the available A/V program data between a memory (e.g., memory 201) and an archival storage system (e.g., mass storage 230) based on a sequential relationship of the available A/V program data (i.e., ASIC is a bridge device between memory 201 and mass storage 230, and output buffers 890-893 buffering output contents based on time; Fig. 2b, 8C), wherein earlier A/V program data is stored in the memory and later A/V program data is stored in the

Art Unit: 2426

archival storage system (e.g., buffering (storing) broadcasting channel stream in output buffer and storing broadcasting channel stream in mass storage) (i.e., television broadcasting is based on time, such as, 8:00 data will reach output buffer before 8:01 data) (see paragraph 0043-0045, 0047, 0116-0118).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have buffering device as taught by Farrand to the home network system of Francis in order to have an intelligent buffering system that provides smooth video playback.

9. Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis et al (Pub # US 2004/0187152) in view of Farrand (Pub # US 20030193619), further in view of Liebenow (Patent # US 6131136).

As to claim 27, note the discussion above, Francis discloses multiple communication networks (see paragraph 0035).

Francis does not specifically disclose automatically switch communication networks.

Farrand discloses the sink component is configured to switch from a first type of communication network to a second type of communication network (e.g., wire and wireless network) based on a signal condition on the first type of communication network (e.g., device outside of wireless RF transmission range) (see paragraph 0058-0061).

Art Unit: 2426

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to switch communication network as taught by Farrand to the home network system of Francis as modified by West because when a device outside of wireless communication range, the device could communicate with wire without lose communication (see col.2, lines 5-8).

Liebenow discloses automatically change from the selected type of communication network to another type of communication network (e.g., wire or wireless network) (see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the automatically network switch as taught by Liebenow to the home network system of Francis as modified by West and Farrand because both of the functions are performed without intervention by the user, and more easy to use (see col.2, lines 5-8).

As to claim 28, Francis discloses multiple communication networks (see paragraph 0035).

Farrand discloses the sink component is configured to switch from a first type of communication network to a second type of communication network (e.g., wire and wireless network) based on a change in the AV program data being transmitted from the source component (e.g., switch to wire connection if transmitting data to a large bandwidth require device) (see paragraph 0058-0061).

Liebenow discloses automatically change from the selected type of communication network to another type of communication network (e.g., wire or wireless network) (see abstract).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29 and 34-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Although a new ground of rejection has been used to address additional limitations that have been added to claims 1, 12, 17, 26, and 29, a response is considered necessary for several of applicant's arguments since Farrand reference will continue to be used to meet several claimed limitations.

Applicant argues that Farrand does not teach identifying related A/V program data and automatically transferring the A/V program data and the related A/V program between a memory and an archival storage system based on a sequential relationship of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data, wherein an earlier of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the memory, and a later of the A/V program data and the related A/V program data is stored in the archival storage system.

However, the examiner respectfully disagrees. For the reasons cited above, see rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103, applicants arguments are not persuasive.

Conclusion

11. Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29 and 34-39 are rejected.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.

See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kou et al. (Pub # US 2002/0078293 A1) is cited to teach controlling home network devices.

McCoskey et al. (Pub # US 2003/0028889 A1) is cited to teach aggregating video in home network.

Callway et al. (Pub # US 2003/000027517 A1) is cited to teach using different transmitter based on data rate.

Demas et al. (Patent # US 7174085) is cited to teach buffering video in a PVR.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUN FEI ZHONG whose telephone number is (571)270-1708. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30~5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hirl can be reached on 571-272-3685. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2426

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JFZ

11/21/2009

/Joseph P. Hir/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426
November 23, 2009